

# *Main Street Gazette*

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The intent of this newsletter is to establish better communications with the residents of Evansville during the construction of this project. This newsletter will provide updates and information relating to the project from the City, the City Engineers, and the Contractor. The newsletter will be delivered bi-weekly.

*Newsletter written, edited and distributed by*

*Tom Pfefferkorn, Resident Project Engineer*

## **Project Progress**

*By Tom Pfefferkorn*

With the exceptional weather lately and working longer hours the Contractor, G. Fox and Son, have begun to catch up to the schedule after being delayed by rain and snow earlier in the project. As of today, all the sanitarymain, watermain and storm sewermain pipes have been installed on West Main Street. In addition, all the sanitary and water service laterals in this section have been completed. The only pipe that remains to be installed on West Main Street is a couple of storm sewer inlets and the pipes from them to the storm sewer main. It is anticipated that these will be completed today.

## **Future Work Schedule**

On the Tuesday following Memorial Day, (No, the Contractor is not working Memorial day.), G. Fox & Son Construction will be working on some additional sanitary sewer and storm sewer manholes that the City has requested to be replaced at the intersection of West Main Street and Second Street.

While they do this their subcontractor Adee Brothers Construction, will be excavating the project area on West Main Street and installing a gravel roadway. Adee Brothers will then move to Maple Street and prepare that area for construction by removing asphalt,

bricks and concrete. When Adee Brothers is done there will be a drivable gravel roadway on West Main Street. There also may be quite a step down to the gravel road from the curb and gutter (about a foot), so it will be necessary to do some access ramping at the crosswalk areas and any other areas that need it. It is still being discussed as to how to handle parking on the gravel road.

With the completion of the work on West Main Street the contractor will be moving over to Maple Street to begin installing watermain and sewermain. This will begin at the alley south of the Night Owl and go right up to East Main Street. During this phase Maple Street will be closed from the alley up to East Main Street. East Main Street will remain open, as well as West Main Street. This phase should take about one week.

The work on Maple Street should take about the whole shortened week. So June 4<sup>th</sup> is when I anticipate that East Main Street will finally have to be closed at Madison Street, as the crew will begin the process of removing the existing street and saving the brick between Madison Street and Maple Street. Once that is complete the water and sewer mains will be installed in this area. The intersection of East Main Street and Maple Street is to remain drivable. This phase should take 2 weeks.

The final phase of the utility project will begin at East Main Street and Maple and head towards Railroad Street and the bridge sometime around Fathers day.

The project contract is to be substantially complete on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. This means the roads will be drivable- but for this project wherever brick streets are to be replaced the road will be left as a temporary gravel road. The only area paved with asphalt will be Maple Street and East Main Street from Maple Street east towards the bridge.

## A Tale of Two Projects

You may not realize it but the Evansville downtown renovation project is actually two separate projects. The first project is the current active project by G. Fox and Son that replaces the hundred year old utility pipes under Main Street. The second project will renovate the surface of downtown Evansville's main Street with a new brick paved roadway, new curb and gutter, new sidewalks, street lighting, and a variety of other street amenities.

The second project is actually a completely separate contract that will be advertised and out for bids early in June. The intent is that the second contractor would be able to begin their work as soon as G. Fox and Son is done with his utility contract in early July. It is anticipated that this second project would take most of the rest of the summer and go deep into the fall.

G. Fox and Son will probably not bid on the second contract as it involves work that they are not equipped to do. This work will most likely be bid by Concrete contractors, road builders, and others who specialize in this type of surface work. Having split contracts allows more specialized contractors to bid on a project and not have to bond and insure other subcontractors for huge amounts of work that the general contractor cannot do himself. This itself saves the City a lot of money and results in a higher quality project. And finally it also gives the City more options as to who they would like to work with.

## Workin' on the Railroad

The improvements to the Railroad crossing near Lake Leotta are not part of the Downtown renovation project but it does have an impact on the already difficult traffic situation in downtown Evansville. The railroad crews arrived this Monday and have told the City that they will be complete and have North Madison Street opened up for the Memorial Day holiday weekend.

## Random Construction Notes

There are a couple of issues that are still being discussed dealing mainly with Parking on East Main Street during that construction, access to delivery trucks to the affected businesses, and the pick-up of trash. Once these issues are resolved there will be explanations on all these topics in future issues of this newsletter.

When the work begins on Maple Street it is intended that the driveway access to the Baker Block Apartments, Animal Clinic, and the City parking lot will remain open. There may be periods of time that access may be restricted but this will be communicated ahead of time to the parties most affects by it.

You may have noticed the four trees in front of the Grange building have come down. Originally these trees were meant to stay, but one of the trees was planted directly over the sewer and water lines into the building and had to be removed when that work was done. A decision was made by the property owner and Public Works not to have mismatched trees, but to plant four new, more appropriate street-scape trees to take their place.

## Faces on the Project

*Matt Atkinson*

Matt is an engineering intern working for Foth in Evansville for the summer. Matt attends UW-Madison in Engineering and has three semesters left to graduate. He does have quite a bit of construction experience from other internships he did in construction for the village of Saumico, near Green Bay. Matt will be on the project daily and assist Tom Pfefferkorn in construction observation, report writing, measuring and pay requests. Matt is quite a basketball player having played for UW-Stevens Point when they won the NCAA national tournament for division three. I'm sure you will be seeing him at some point in the project.

## Riddle of the Week

Four men were in a boat that turned over and sank to the bottom of the lake. Yet not a single man got wet. How was this possible?

(Answer at the end of the newsletter – no peeking!)

## Quote of the Week

All rising to a great place is by a winding stair.

*Sir Francis Bacon*

## Project Contacts

The Project field office behind the City Water and Light Building. The phone # is (608) 882-2790.

Tom Pfefferkorn, Resident Project Engineer phone # is (608) 358-7144

**Riddle Answer:**

Not a single man got wet because they were all married!